

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

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JUNE 1980

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

There are several concerns that face us in the next year. Perhaps over the summer, we can all give some thought to them, and reach some possible solutions..

We are all proud that we are a model in the country for our Executive Director's position. There are only five other states that now have this invaluable service. Many states are looking to us for information and advice about the advantages of this kind of position and what it brings to an organization. As a state organization, it was the primary goal set by all of us at the Convention two years ago. The Kansas Arts Commission has helped us to fund the office of Executive Director. We now need to explore ways and establish goals for our own fiscal responsibility. The last Convention brought many people and ideas together. Now we need to plan the ways to implement those ideas. Please help the Divisional Chairpersons to organize and solidify means for financial support. One way we can all help is to start building our membership. Talk with your colleagues and encourage their participation in our organization. We need their ideas, their talents and their support. And, in turn, the organization can help them. If each of us would pledge to get two new members, we would be well on our way to a stronger and more financially stable organization.

Any of us who receive government funds are affected by the "504" regulations dealing with accessibility of the arts to the handicapped. The Association of Kansas Theatre is in the process of establishing an advisory panel to help us understand the problems and develop achievable objectives for opening theatre experiences to all persons with handicapping conditions. If there is any way that we, with the help of our advisory panel, can be of help to your organization, please contact us. Access to the arts for the handicapped should be of concern and interest to all of us.

And summer time is theatre time in Kansas! We are growing in number of producing groups and in quality of production. If you will be working in a summer season, break a leg! If you are lucky and can be part of audiences across the state this summer, have a wonderful time! And, for theatre's sake, take a friend!

Looking forward to being in touch with all of you again in the fall.

Joyce Cavarozzi
President
Association of Kansas Theatre
(Theatre Dept., WSU)

THEATRE AROUND THE STATE

(Note: These are the schedules known to the editor at press time. PLEASE MAIL YOUR FALL SCHEDULES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to Twink Lynch, 1334 Lakeside Dr., Topeka, KS 66604 for inclusion in the September issue of MARQUEE. Deadline is September 1st.)

DISTRICT I (Northwest): No schedules known at this time.

DISTRICT II (North Central):

Junction City Little Theater

Children's Summer Theater Workshop performance - August 15, 16

Salina Community Theatre

Mame - June 26-29, July 2-6, 10-13

Abilene Community Theater

Irene - Aug. 7-10

Gaslight Theatre, Fort Riley

South Pacific - June 6-21

DISTRICT III (Northeast):

Ottawa Community Theatre

The Rainmaker - 1st weekend in August

Kansas University

In repertory from July 10 - 27th:

The Music Man

Hotel Paradiso

LuAnne Hampton Laverty Oberlander

Washburn University

Sweet Charity - June 20-21, 2-29

The Ritz - July 18-19, 24-26

Apple Valley Farm - the Ric Averill Players

The Horror of Creepy Hollow

Pirates, Pirates, Pirates

Vassar Playhouse

Trouble in Tahiti/archie & mehitabel
May 20-June 8

The King and I - June 10 to July 6

The Miracle Worker - July 8 - 27

H.M.S. Pinafore - July 29 - Aug. 10

Bus Stop - Aug. 12 - 31

A Little Night Music - Sept. 2 - 21

DISTRICT IV (Southwest): No schedules known at this time

DISTRICT V (South Central): No schedules known at this time

DISTRICT VI: (Southeast):

Fredonia Players

Fireworks show - July 4th

Melodrama - October

Emporia State University

Picnic - June 20-21, 27-28

The REal Inspector Hound - June 25-26, July 12, 16, 24-25

Story Theatre - July 2-3, 11, 15, 19, 23

Private Lives - July 9-10, 17-18, 22, 26

THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT THEIR SCHEDULES TO ME. DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR FALL SCHEDULES 1

ANNOUNCING NEW AKT BOARD MEMBERS!

Joyce Cavarozzi, President of AKT, announces with pleasure the appointment of AKT's new Secretary-Treasurer, Connie Menninger of Topeka. Connie has been active with Topeka Civic Theatre for a number of years and is currently serving on the Board, and as Chairperson of Personnel and the Artistic Director Search Committee.

And, as we go to press, the results of the University/College Theatre Division's election can be announced - Andrew Tsubaki of Lawrence will be replacing Piet Knetsch in that position. Andy is Professor of Speech and Drama and head of the Division of International Studies at K.U.

WELCOME ABOARD!

WELCOME TO NEW AKT MEMBERS (please add these names to your Directory):

- Jensen, Mrs. Sydney, 123 W. Jewell, Salina, KS 67401 - KCTC
- Perry, Jerri Wall, 1247 N. Emporia, Wichita, 67214 - KCTC
- McQuade, Sally, Box 88, Ashland, 67831 - SS
- WINFIELD COMMUNITY THEATRE, Box 347, Winfield 67156 (renewal) - KCTC
- Eaton, Leslie F., M.D., RR 1, Box 75, Salina 67401 - KCTC

AKT LIBRARY

For you new members who may not know about it, AKT has a (beginning) script library. It is a "beginning" library in the sense that the number of scripts is not large, and also in the sense that we are encouraging all theatre people to donate used (but usable) scripts to the library for theatre workers throughout the state to read before ordering from the various play services. Scripts available to borrow (you pay postage only) are: The House of Blue Leaves, The Odd Couple, Glass Menagerie, J.B., Purlie Victorious, Marat-Sade, America Hurrah, Antigone (Anouilh), Diary of Anne Frank, Inspector General, You Can't Take It with You, Dark of the Moon, Moliere collection, Adding Machine, Beggar on Horseback, All My Sons, Major Barbara, Arms and the Man, Importance of Being Earnest, and Thurber Carnival.

FACT * MONACO * FACT * MONACO * FACT * MONACO * FACT * MONACO * FACT * MONACO * FACT *

We are delighted to announce that two of FACT '79's judges are returning to judge the 1981 AKT FACT Festival: David Young, Executive Producer of the American College Theatre Festival (Washington, DC), and Charles Jones, Managing Director of the Omaha Community Playhouse (Nebraska).

Again this year we are offering you the option of entering on a regular or associate basis. If you want the experience of entering the Festival and getting the feedback from three highly qualified judges, but can't think of raising the money to represent Kansas in the Regional or National FACT, we encourage you to enter on an "associate" basis. The Region 5 FACT Festival will be held in Topeka, May 8-10, 1981, at the Washburn University Theatre. Plan NOW to attend and help Kansas be the greatest host ever!

DIVISION REPORTS

CHILDREN'S THEATRE DIVISION -- KAT MATASSARIN

The Children's Theatre Division hosted our Second Annual Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences, this one a "mini-festival," in conjunction with the AKT Conference this spring at the Wichita Holiday Inn Plaza. It was quite a success! We had the pleasure of hosting five theatre companies from throughout the state, representing the university, professional and community theatres, and the honor of hosting the acclaimed Children's Theatre playwright, Aurand Harris, as our Respondent. In attendance were approximately 450 young people from the Wichita Public Schools, as well as conference participants. Each of the productions was well received and a credit to the state. They included the following:

- Emporia State University
- Hutchinson Repertory Theatre
- Kansas University Touring Theatre for Young People
- Music Theatre of Wichita
- Seem-to-Be Players of Lawrence

There was also a special presentation by Sack and Act Players of Wichita. Our thanks to all involved!

Our plans are to host a Festival bi-annually, alternating with FACT (Festival of American Community Theatre), and our next Festival will be in 1982. Plans are already being made. We are also looking ahead to our 1981 Conference next spring, where we hope to concentrate on non-performance oriented theatre for young people. Any suggestions or input of any kind would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to write or contact me at any time.

-- Kat Matassarini
937 Enoch
Wichita KS 67207

SECONDARY SCHOOL THEATRE DIVISION -- NADINE CHARLSEN

The Secondary School Theatre Division has a basic organizational problem which is again blurring the future of a unified division. Four years ago, it was agreed by both the state Thespian Society and the Secondary School Theatre Division of AKT to join the state conferences, in hopes of a growth in this Division as a whole. Three years ago, we attempted a joint conference. There were few students there (approximately 70), but a firm groundwork had begun to solve differences in the two organizations. Two years ago, we increased our attendance to approximately 80 students with a special guest for the whole Conference recommended by the Secondary School Theatre Division. Last year (1980), we had over 100 students, six secondary school productions, and a representative from the International Thespian Society. This all seems to be positive growth and an increase in understanding among theatre practitioners in this Division.

In the Thespian candidates' speeches, the majority of candidates supported the joint effort of AKT and Thespians through their combined state conferences. In the sponsors' meeting, there was a general consensus that the unification idea was sound but there were some problems to be solved; i.e., scheduling, student participation, student social get-togethers, etc. All of these issues could be solved in future joint conferences.

5

SECONDARY SCHOOL THEATRE DIVISION, CONTD.

The disappointing news, as we close this school year, is that the state Thespian officers have for some reason declined to support one of their campaign issues. In Executive Session (without your input or vote), the state officers have decided to hold a separate state Thespian conference in 1981. This was stated verbally to the AKT Board of Directors at a special May meeting.

It was also announced that there will be a District Thespian Conference held at the AKT Annual Conference time. A month later, all state Thespian Troupes will be called back to Salina for the State Thespian Conference. This has thrown a wrench into the planning of the 1981 Conference, since we do not know what the outcome of this decision will be, in terms of facilities that will be needed and schedules that will result.

Please consider a number of issues, and, if you find the time and need to respond to these issues before fall, please do so:

1. Will your school support two trips to Salina within a 6-8 week period? That includes money for meals, motel, bus transportation, and school days missed and production time?

2. As a sponsor, would you and could you support two separate conferences?

3. If you had a choice of a conference combined with other state theatre groups or a separate high school conference, which would you attend?

4. Would you support both?

5. Would you rather see district plays presented at the AKT Conference, or selected plays from all over the state presented at AKT?

The claim of the state Thespian director is that the Thespian Conference is being "buried" by the AKT offerings. We admit there were some problems with Thespian activities at the last Conference, and we regret this as much as those who were affected by the scheduling problems. But we wonder if pulling the state Thespian Conference out of the AKT Conference is the best answer.

In September you will be asked to vote on this issue. If you have any input regarding this problem, please write to either your state Thespian Director, or your AKT Representative.

GOOD NEWS FOR KANSAS PLAYWRIGHT!!

Richard Basgall has received word that his play, Peter Fechter, was selected by the Midwest Playwrights Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, for laboratory production in late July - early August.

The MPL is sponsored by the Arts Development Program of the University of Wisconsin and was originated by Robert Gard (AKT Conferees will remember he was a special guest and Hall of Famer at our recent Convention) and others five years ago. Edward Kamarck of the University is Executive Director, and Dale Wasserman, author of One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, Man of La Mancha, etc., is Artistic Director. Applicants are limited to twelve states in the midwest (the Dakotas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin). Three hundred and sixty-seven (367!) plays were submitted this year, and 10 were selected for production and laboratory work.

CONGRATULATIONS, DICK, FROM ALL OF US!

MEA CULPA, MEA CULPA, MEA MAXIMA CULPA!

Due to the failure of your editor to get her act together for the last issue of MARQUEE, there was no formal mention of one of the greatest moments in AKT history - the first Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame awards which were given Saturday night and Sunday morning of our 1980 Convention. Let me now redeem myself by giving those of you who weren't there (you really missed it this time!) the following information:

Our first five Hall of Famers included the following people - who were honored for their outstanding and consistent contribution to theatre in Kansas and in the nation over a long period of time and who have provided leadership to all who are presently working in theatre in Kansas:

Irene Vickers Baker of Wichita, whose energy and leadership were responsible for the beautiful children's theatre in Wichita

Karl Bruder, who for more than 25 years was head of the Emporia State University Theatre Program

Jed Davis, of the faculty of the Kansas University Theatre Program, former President of the American Theatre Association, and of the Association of Kansas Theatre

Robert Gard, of the Arts Development program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, a pioneer in the field of community theatre (a native of Iola, Kansas)

Peggy Greene, charter member of the Topeka Civic Theatre, long time Board member of TCT, and feature writer (Peggy of the Flint Hills) for the Topeka Capital Journal.

The awards were presented by out-going AKT President, Ron Frederickson, and by the First Lady of Kansas, Ramona Carlin, whose short address to the AKT members assembled was a real "turn-on." What a nifty lady! Isn't it great she's a friend of the Arts!

LOS ANGELES AND SAN DIEGO, ANYONE?

The American Theatre Association (and all its constituent divisions) will hold its annual convention in San Diego August 10-13, 1980. Besides offering hundreds of workshops and seminars, ATA has scheduled a side trip to Tijuana, a midnight cruise in San Diego harbor, and two performances at the Old Globe Theatre (Two Gentlemen of Verona and Romeo and Juliet).

Preceding the ATA Convention, ACTA will hold a FLOATing Conference in the Los Angeles area, visiting various community and professional theatres, as well as Universal Studios. Participants in the FLOAT will join the ATA Convention on Sunday, Aug. 10th.

For further information regarding these events, contact Twink Lynch at the Central Office, or write directly to ATA, 1000 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

August 7-9, 1980: ACTA's FLOATing Conference, Los Angeles (American Comm. Theatre Assn.)

August 10-13, 1980: ATA's Annual Convention, San Diego (American Theatre Association)

September 6, 1980: AKT Board Meeting

March 13-15, 1981: AKT Annual Conference and FACT '81 (Fest. of Amer. Comm. Theatre), Salina, KS, at Marymount College Fine Arts Center

March 20-22, 1981: Region 5 of ATA, 2nd annual Conference, Minneapolis

May 8-10, 1981: Region 5 FACT Festival, Topeka, KS, Washburn University Theatre

June 12-14, 1981: National FACT Festival, Kalamazoo, MI, winner goes to Monaco!

August, 1981: ATA Annual Convention, Dallas

August, 1982: ATA Annual Convention, New York

August, 1983: ATA Annual Convention, Minneapolis

ARC ARTS ADVISORY PANELS BEING FORMED:

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Kansas is presently working to establish an ARC ARTS ADVISORY PANEL in each of five major regions of the state. This panel is being formed to coordinate arts activities involving the retarded or disabled, to advocate for arts programs, and to advise the ARC on all art-related subjects.

Persons with an interest in any area of arts activity involving handicapped individuals, and who are presently working with groups of retarded or disabled persons on a regular basis, are invited to contact the ARC of Kansas about joining this panel.

Contact Michael Hofferber, Special Projects Coordinator, at ARC, 9006 W. 51st Terr., Merriam, KS 66203, or call 913-236-6810.

HRC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Hutchinson Repertory Company has announced a new summer internship program for six talented high school and junior college students. They will work with the HRC for six weeks in a professional theatre touring situation. The interns will be introduced to all aspects of theatre life on the road, but the emphasis of the program will be on the technical aspects of theatre: lighting, sound, staging, costuming, set design, and construction. The interns will also be given the opportunity to mount and perform their own production in Hutchinson. HRC will also be donating a summer program through the Hutchinson Recreation Commission, the Red Barn Players, and the interns will assist the company in preparation for two groups of children in presenting their own plays. Interns will be graded on the progress they demonstrate during their time with HRC and also on their enthusiasm, determination, imagination, and dedication.

"PLAYS and PLAYS"

is a contest for community and children's theatre sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council and theaters and the Arts Council in Winston-Salem, NC. Scripts are being solicited for plays or musicals for community theater and for children's theater. Prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 will be offered in each category. For information and entry blanks, contact Plays and Plays, c/o Agnes Sink, 610 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27106 or call 919/725-4531. The contests close July 1, 1980.

STILL A FEW BUTTONS LEFT

"AKT - a good act to follow" buttons are still available from the Central Office (1334 Lakeside, Topeka 66604, 913/232-7709) for \$1.25. Buy a button (or two or three) and help support AKT!

MARQUEE DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for the 1980-81 issues of MARQUEE (for submission of material):

- September 1 (FALL AND WINTER PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, PLEASE!!) for October issue
- October 1 for November issue
- November 1 for December issue
- March 15 for April (post-convention) issue
- April 15 (SUMMER THEATRE SCHEDULES, PLEASE!) for Summer issue



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